

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested. Claims 1-24 are in this application. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, and 19-21 have been amended. Claims 22-24 have been added to additionally claim the present invention.

Applicant filed an IDS with a Form 1449 on June 16, 2004. The third, fifth, and eighth entries on the other documents list had typographical errors. On December 20, 2004, applicant filed an IDS with a Form 1449 that corrected these errors. Specifically, the first entry on the December 2004 Form 1449 correctly listed Application Serial No. 10/053,858, which was incorrectly listed as 10/053,828 in the third entry of the June 2004 Form 1449.

In addition, the second entry on the December 2004 Form 1449 correctly listed Application Serial No. 10/106,428, which was incorrectly listed as 10/160,428 in the fifth entry of the June 2004 Form 1449. Further, the third entry on the December 2004 Form 1449 correctly listed Doyle et al. as the inventive entity of Application Serial No. 10/272,027, which was incorrectly listed as Maksimovic and Dhar in the eighth entry of the June 2004 Form 1449.

In the Office Action mailed October 20, 2005, the Examiner lined through the second and third entries of the December 2004 Form 1449, indicating that these entries had been previously considered as part of the June 2004 Form 1449. However, to insure that the front page of the patent correctly lists the references considered during prosecution, applicant requests that the Examiner initial each of the three references in the December 2004 Form 1449, and line through the third, fifth, and eighth entries of the June 2004 Form 1449.

The Examiner objected to claim 6 due to an informality. Claim 6 has been amended to remove the objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 9, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a/b) as being anticipated by applicant's admitted prior art. For the reasons set forth below, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended and recites:

"a detector that measures a propagation delay of a signal edge, and outputs information that identifies the propagation delay of the signal edge; and

"a voltage generator connected to the detector and a power node, the voltage generator having a number of resistive nodes, a number of resistive elements, and a number of switches, the resistive elements being connected in series such that each resistive element is connected between two resistive nodes, a first resistive element in the series being connected to a voltage source via a resistive node, a last resistive element in the series being connected to ground via a resistive node, each switch being connected to a resistive node and the power node."

From what can be determined, applicant's prior art FIG. 11 fails to teach or suggest a voltage generator as required by amended claim 1. If the power supply VDD, the inductor node NL, and ground shown in applicant's prior art FIG. 11 are read to be the resistive nodes required by claim 1, and the PMOS and NMOS transistors 1122 and 1124 shown in applicant's prior art FIG. 11 are read to be the resistive elements required by claim 1, then there are no structures which can be read to be the switches required by claim 1.

Thus, since applicant's prior art FIG. 11 fails to teach a number of switches, claim 1 is not anticipated by applicant's prior art FIG. 11. In addition, since claims 2-7, 14, and 23-24 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 2-7, 14, and 23-24 are not anticipated by applicant's prior art FIG. 11 for the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 8, which has been amended to be in independent form.

With respect to claim 19, the claim has been amended to recite:

"measuring a propagation delay of a signal edge, and outputting information that identifies the propagation delay of the signal edge;

"simultaneously generating two or more substantially constant supply voltages from a voltage source; and

"processing the information to place one of the supply voltages on a power node."

From what can be determined, applicant's prior art FIG. 11 fails to teach or suggest simultaneously generating two or more substantially constant supply voltages, and placing one of the supply voltages on a power node. As shown in applicant's prior art FIG. 11, a single voltage is generated by varying the current that is sourced into and sunk from the LC filter.

Thus, since applicant's prior art FIG. 11 fails to teach simultaneously generating two or more substantially constant supply voltages, claim 19 is not anticipated by applicant's prior art FIG. 11. In addition, since claims 20-22 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 19, claims 20-22 are not anticipated by applicant's prior art FIG. 11 for the same reasons as claim 19.

The Examiner objected to claims 3-8 and 10-15 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 8 has been rewritten to be in independent form, is believed to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and is therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 9, 13, and 15 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 8 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 8.

Claim 10 has been rewritten to be in independent form, is believed to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and is therefore believed to be allowable. Claim 10 was further amended to recite that the reset signal resets the propagation delay detector. Claims 11-12 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 10 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 10.

Claims 16-18 were allowed. Claims 16-17, however, were amended to alternately claim the present invention. The amendments are not believed to affect the patentability of these claims.

10/730,658

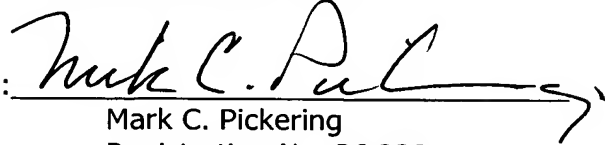
PATENT

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1-18-06

By:



Mark C. Pickering
Registration No. 36,239
Attorney for Assignee

P.O. Box 300
Petaluma, CA 94953-0300
Telephone: (707) 762-5500
Facsimile: (707) 762-5504
Customer No. 33402